

**MEMORIAL R.G.S.
[ROBERT
GOULD SHAW]**

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Memorial R.G.S. [Robert Gould Shaw] by Anonymous

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ANONYMOUS

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MEMORIAL



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1864



WAR DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON CITY, January 26, 1863.

Ordered,

That Governor Andrew of Massachusetts is authorized, until further orders, to raise such number of Volunteer Companies of Artillery for duty in the forts of Massachusetts and elsewhere, and such corps of Infantry for the volunteer military service, as he may find convenient; such volunteers to be enlisted for three years, or until sooner discharged, and may include persons of African descent, organized into separate corps. He will make the usual needful requisitions on the appropriate staff-bureaus and officers for the proper transportation, organization, supplies, subsistence, arms, and equipments of such volunteers.

EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.

BOSTON, January 30, 1863.

FRANCIS G. SHAW, ESQ., *Staten Island, N. Y.*

DEAR SIR :

As you may have seen by the newspapers, I am about to raise a Coloured Regiment in Massachusetts. This I cannot but regard as perhaps the most important corps to be organized during the whole war, in view of what must be the composition of our new levies, and, therefore, I am very anxious to organize it judiciously in order that it may be a model for all future Coloured Regiments.

I am desirous to have for its officers, particularly for its field officers, young men of military experience, of firm Antislavery principles, ambitious, superior to a vulgar contempt for colour, and having faith in the capacity of coloured men for military service. Such officers must be necessarily gentlemen of the highest tone and honour, and I shall look for them in those circles of educated Antislavery society, which, next to the coloured race itself, has the greatest interest in the success of this experiment.

Reviewing the young men of the character I have described, now in the Massachusetts service, it occurs to me to offer the Colonelcy of such a Regiment to your son, Captain Shaw of the Second Massachusetts Infantry, and the Lieutenant-Colonelcy to Captain Hallowell of the Twentieth Massachusetts Infantry, the son of Mr. Morris L. Hallowell of Philadelphia.

With my deep conviction of the importance of this undertaking, in view of the fact that it will be the first Coloured Regiment to be raised in the Free States, and that its success, or its failure, will go far to elevate, or to

depress, the estimation in which the character of the Coloured Americans will be held throughout the world, the command of such a regiment seems to me to be a high object of ambition for any officer. How much your son may have reflected upon such a subject I do not know, nor have I any information of his disposition for such a task, except what I have derived from his general character and reputation; nor should I wish him to undertake it, unless he could enter upon it with a full sense of its importance, with an earnest determination for its success, and with the assent, sympathy, and support of his immediate family. I therefore beg to enclose to you the letter in which I make him the offer of this commission, and I will be obliged to you if you will forward it to him, accompanying it with any expression to him of your own views, and if you will also write to me upon the subject.

My mind is drawn towards Captain Shaw by many considerations. I am sure that he would attract the support, sympathy, and active co-operation of many besides his immediate family and relatives. The more ardent, faithful, true Republicans and friends of Liberty would recognize in him a scion of a tree whose fruit and leaves have alike contributed to the strength and healing of our generation. So, also, is it with Captain Hallowell. His Father is a Quaker gentleman of Philadelphia, two of whose sons are officers in our regiments, and another is a merchant in Boston. Their house in Philadelphia is a hospital, almost, for Massachusetts officers, and the family are full of good works; Mr. H. being my constant adviser in the interest of our soldiers, when ill or in distress, in that city. I need not add that young Captain Hallowell is a gallant and fine fellow, true as steel to the cause of Humanity, as well as to the Flag of the Country.

I wish to engage the field officers, and then get their aid

in selecting those of the line. I have offers from Oliver T. Beard, of Brooklyn, N. Y., late Lieutenant-Colonel of the Forty-eighth New York Volunteers, who says he can already furnish six hundred men; and from others, wishing to furnish men from New York and from Connecticut, but I do not wish to start the regiment under a stranger to Massachusetts. If in any way, by suggestion or otherwise, you can aid the purpose which is the burden of this letter, I shall receive your co-operation with the heartiest gratitude.

I do not wish the office to go begging, and if the offer is refused, I would prefer its being kept reasonably private. Hoping to hear from you immediately on receiving this letter, I am, with high regard,

Your obedient servant and friend,

JOHN A. ANDREW.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.

BOSTON, January 30, 1863.

CAPT. ROBERT G. SHAW, *2d Reg. Mass. Vol. Inf.*

CAPTAIN:

I am about to organize in Massachusetts a Coloured Regiment as part of the volunteer quota of this State,—the commissioned officers to be white men. I have to-day written to your Father, expressing to him my sense of the importance of this undertaking, and requesting him to forward to you this letter, in which I offer to you the commission of Colonel over it. The Lieutenant-Colonelcy I have offered to Captain Hallowell of the Twentieth Mas-